

Unit 4: Quality Patient Care
Z-Chapter 22
ONLINE CONTENT (1 H)

Unit Objectives:

- Discuss the use of key indicators to measure performance. (2,3,7)*
- Describe the nurse's role in quality and performance improvement. (3,4,7)*
- Identify tools and processes for continuous quality improvement. (2,3)*

*Course Objectives

Quality Improvement Project
Due February 12, 2024 @ 0800 in the Z-CH # 22 dropbox

Pick one topic from the following list:

1. Improving communication about individual patients during shift change. (shift report)
2. Preventing catheter related infections, urinary or central line.
3. Preventing falls and injuries for patients within healthcare facilities.
4. Preventing pressure ulcers for patients within healthcare facilities.
5. Reducing medication errors.
6. Reducing nurse turnover rates.

Answer the following questions as it relates to the topic pick from the list above.

1. Identify problem areas (or causes) associated with the topic and prioritize each identified problem area. (List at least 3)

Some of the problems that may be associated with catheter related infections are improper use of aseptic technique when cleaning the catheter, keeping the catheters in longer than needed, improper flushing and/or draining of the catheters, improper training on how to care for a patient with a central line or urinary catheter, and the catheters not getting cleaned routinely enough.

2. Develop solutions for each problem or cause listed. (Provide at least 3)

A solution for improper aseptic technique, is making sure to follow proper hand washing, putting the proper gloves on, using alcohol wipes or Curoc caps when necessary, and adhering the urinary catheter to the right place (including the drainage bag below the bladder) and covering the central line with the proper dressings. To prevent the catheter from being in longer than needed, the nurses should be on the lookout in the patient's charts for when it is ordered to be removed, so that proper actions can be taken. Also, the nurse should communicate with the proper team member of when to remove the catheter. A solution to prevent the catheters not getting cleaned routinely enough is making it part of the rounds with bathing to check and make sure that the foleys have been drained and cleaned, that the central line has been cleaned and the dressing have been changed in the last 24 hours.

3. Identify why these problems might exist.

One reason that these problems exist is due to the lack of communication between team members. It is important that communication is occurring, especially when the patients have a catheter of some kind, due to their risk for infection being much higher. Some nurses may also have a large caseload of patients and it is difficult for them to get the proper care performed in a feasible timeframe. Another problem that may exist is the lack of proper training in care of a line, or not remembering the proper techniques to care for a person with a catheter, especially a central line.

4. Provide a plan to improve and how to implement the plan. The plan should provide steps for improvement. The implementation should provide a timeline.

A plan that I have to improve catheter related infections is to make sure that the nurse are properly trained/educated on how to perform that catheter care. I would hold an in-service to have the nurse on the floor attend so that they can get some practice and freshen up their skills on caring for a patient with a catheter. The first step would be to inform the staff that there is going to be an in-service on preventing catheter infections in both urinary and central line. I would then give dates on which they can come to attend. During the in-service I would allow the staff to do hands-on practice of caring for those with a catheter and I would also inform them that they are to chart all of the care that they have performed for the catheters. After the in-service, they will have a week to get into the transition of making sure that the documentation and rounding on the patients with catheters is being implemented properly.

5. How will you monitor that your plan is effective?

I will monitor that my plan is effective by auditing charts to see if staff are being diligent enough with documenting what all they have done. I would also check each patient to make sure that proper implementation has occurred.

Please be prepared to share and discuss your answers in class.

In order to receive full credit (1 H class time) for this assignment, it must be completed in its entirety by the due date/time assigned. Any assignments not completed in its entirety by the assigned due date and time will result in missed class time.